

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A control device for monitoring and controlling an electronic device, comprising:
a base unit including a microcontroller and a data interface coupled to the microcontroller for sending and/or receiving external information, the base unit further including a video interface for receiving video programming signals; and
a hand-held remote device in communication with the base unit via a data link, the hand-held remote device further including a display component for displaying at least a portion of the external information received from the data interface, said display component also for rendering video content in said video programming signals received from the video interface.
2. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data interface further includes a modem for sending and/or receiving said external information via a network.
3. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data interface further includes a set-top box interface for sending and/or receiving external information via a set-top box.
4. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data interface further includes a computer interface for sending and/or receiving external information via a computer.
5. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes electronic program guide information.
6. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes electronic commerce information.

7. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes information obtained from the Internet.
8. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes electronic mail information.
9. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes control code information.
10. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the external information includes software or firmware upgrades for the base unit or the hand-held remote device.
11. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 further including a non-volatile memory device coupled to the microcontroller for storing a unique identifier.
12. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a smart card interface for receiving additional external information.
13. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a smart card interface for validating user identity.
14. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a smart card interface for enabling execution of applications.

15. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a smart card interface for receiving a smart card having resident thereon a software application.
16. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the functionality of the base unit and the functionality of the hand-held remote device are integrated together into the same unit.
17. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the functionality of the base unit is integrated into a television set.
18. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the functionality of the base unit is integrated into a set-top box.
19. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the functionality of the base unit is integrated into a computer.
20. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes functionality for use as a wireless telephone.
21. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the base unit further includes a video tuner for extracting a channel for viewing on said display component of the hand-held remote device from among a plurality of input video programming signals.
22. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 further including an overlay unit for combining said video content with microcontroller-generated images.

23. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting a program by program time from a selection list.
24. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting a program by program type from a selection list.
25. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting a program by broadcast station from a selection list.
26. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting a program by program keyword from a selection list.
27. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting and recalling personal preferences from a selection list.
28. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for selecting and recalling personal preferences using a code input.
29. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for activating a function for displaying detailed information about a particular program.
30. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for activating a marking function for marking at least one program for application of further specified functions.

31. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the display component includes an information display for displaying a history of user selections previously made.
32. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes a selection component for automatically rearranging menu selections of the selection list based on a history of user selections previously made.
33. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data link includes an infrared link.
34. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data link includes an RF link.
35. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data link includes a direct electrical link.
36. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes control information for remotely controlling an electronic appliance.
37. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein hand-held remote device further includes:
a display component for displaying a dual partition selection list, the dual partition selection list having a first selection list and a second selection list, at least a portion of the first selection list and at least a portion of the second selection list being at least partly concurrently displayable on the display component; and
a selection component for selecting elements from the dual partition selection list, the selection component having a first selection component for selecting elements from the first selection list, a selection made from the first selection list using the first selection component causing a display of corresponding items in the second selection list while the first selection list

10 is at least partly concurrently displayed, a selection made from the second selection list using the second selection component causing a display of corresponding items in the first selection list while the second selection list is at least partly concurrently displayed.

38. A hand-held remote device comprising:

a video interface for receiving encrypted video programming signals;

a decoder for decrypting said encrypted video programming signals; and

a display component for rendering video content corresponding to said decrypted video

5 programming signals received from the video interface.

39. The control device as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the display component renders the video content on an attached television set.

40. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein base unit further includes a charging unit for charging the hand-held remote device.

41. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes an LCD display screen, a speaker, and an earphone jack.

42. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a control unit for learning unknown control codes.

43. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes a personal database.

44. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes an embedded browser.
45. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the base unit further includes a personal database.
46. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the base unit further includes an embedded browser.
47. The control device as claimed in Claim 46 wherein the embedded browser processes at least a portion of the external information.
48. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the data interface further includes a VBI decoder for receiving said external information via a VBI encoded signal.
49. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the hand-held remote device further includes an interface to a different user operating a second hand-held remote device.
50. The control device as claimed in Claim 1 further including storage for a user profile.